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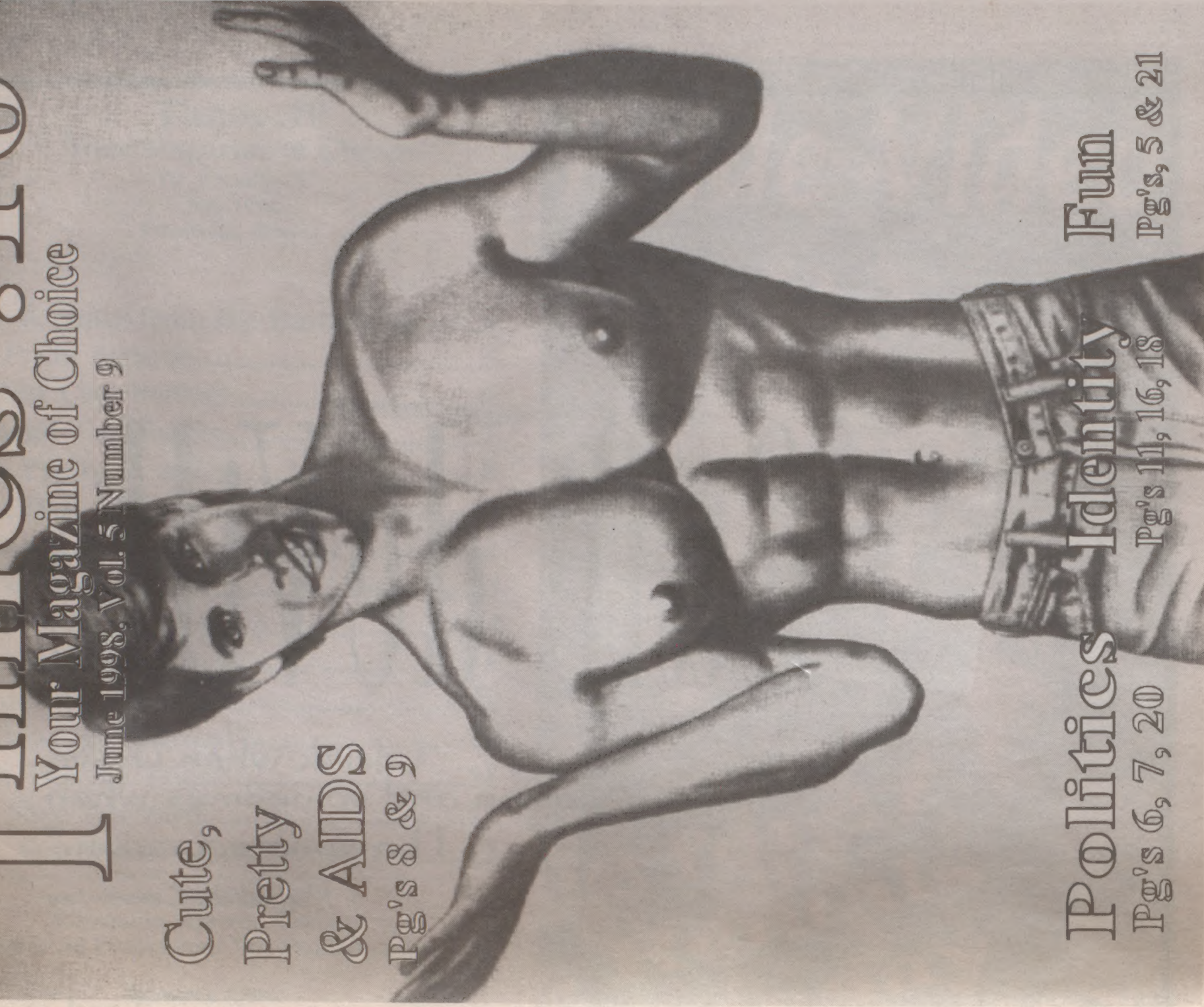
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
Military Mondays Glass of Canadian 1.25 8-12am	Precum Porno Tuesday 1.50 hballs 8-12am	Hump Day Hot Nuts 1.50 ea 8-12am	Beer Bash Free Pool Large Jugs 6.50 All Day	Levis & Leather wear your leather for free cover and a blowjob
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Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

June 1998, Vol. 5 Number 9

Cute,
Pretty
& AIDS
Pg's 8 & 9



Politics Identity

Pg's 6, 7, 20

Fun

Pg's 5 & 21



Café de Ville

"I drink when I have
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I have no occasion."

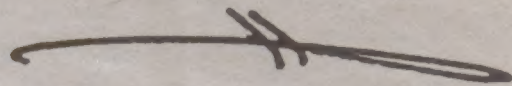
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Times .10
Your Magazine of Choice
 Vol. 5 Number 9
 June 1998
 Edmonton, Alberta

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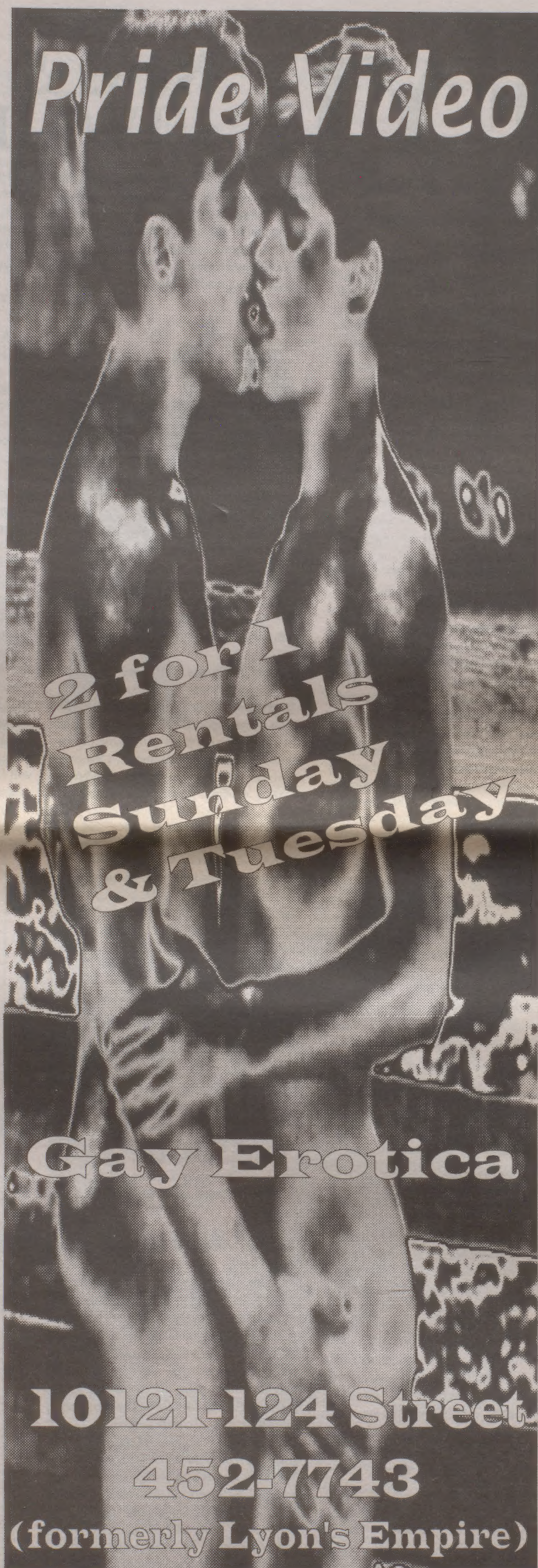
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FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"Antiretroviral Therapy for HIV Infection"

Journal of the American Medical Association

In the Journal of the American Medical Association, Drs. Paul A. Volberding and Steven G. Deeks of the University of California at San Francisco, and San Francisco General Hospital discuss the history of protease inhibitor treatment in HIV-infected individuals. Two years ago, researchers started investigating the possibility of eradicating HIV in infected patients. If viral infection could be completely stopped for an extended period of time, previously infected cells would naturally die due to their short half-life. Recent studies show that there are reservoirs of infected cells which have very long half-lives, and it appears that antiretroviral treatment alone may not be enough to eliminate HIV from the body. Data from two studies investigating CD4 cell proliferation in long term nonprogressors and antiretroviral treatment in infected patients before seroconversion indicate that HIV activates HIV-specific CD4 cells, which then become susceptible to the virus. This causes a decreased immune response to HIV. In nonprogressors and those treated early, it appears that CD4 cell activity is preserved. Combination therapy including a protease inhibitor seems to increase CD4 cell counts. However, protease inhibitor treatment has a number of problems, including the complexity and high cost of the regimens, as well as such side effects as metabolic abnormalities and alterations in body fat distribution. In addition, the authors note, the AIDS Clinical Trials Group 320 protocol found that combination treatment of zidovudine, lamivudine, and indinavir could not suppress plasma viral RNA to undetectable levels in about three-fifths of patients with advanced infection.

"AIDS Education Should Be Mandatory for High School Graduation"

Reuters Health Information Services

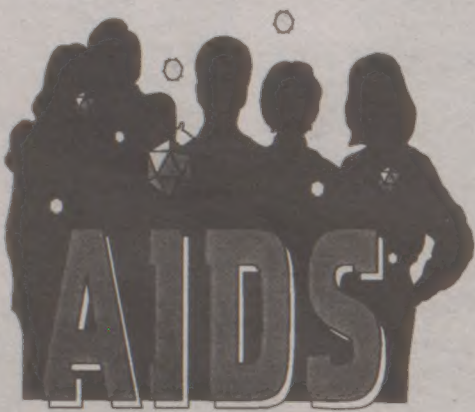
The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that HIV/AIDS education be required for high school graduation. The Academy issued a revised policy statement in the May issue of Pediatrics, maintaining its current recommendation that AIDS education begin in kindergarten and continue through 12th grade. The group also recommends that an HIV/AIDS course be mandatory for future teachers. The policy statement further suggested that physicians and nurses continue receiving HIV/AIDS education and school health advisory committees be formed to oversee community support for school health education programs.

"China Records 9,970 HIV Cases, Vows More Education"

Reuters

The People's Daily in China reports that there were 9,970 HIV-infected individuals in the country by the end of March, an increase of 1,667

cases since last October. Of the total, 290 infections had developed into full-blown AIDS and about 10 percent were reported in people under the age of 19 years. Western medical experts estimate the actual rate of HIV to be much greater in China and note the lack of widespread testing there. China plans



to promote condom use, reduce drug use and prostitution, and increase AIDS awareness in order to limit the number of cases to 1.5 million by the year 2010.

"Switch' Activates HIV Foes"

Washington Times

Researchers at the University of California at San Diego report the finding of a chemical that stimulates the body's immune defense against HIV and other pathogens, a discovery which could help lead to the development of an AIDS vaccine. The researchers report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that this "master switch" chemical starts an immune response cascade that protects T-cells from infection by HIV. The chemical also initiates the recruitment of more immune cells to infection sites. The authors note that the finding could also have implications on other diseases, such as cancer, Crohn's disease, and other inflammatory conditions. "AIDS in Pakistan: 20-29 Age Group at Greatest Risk" Dawn Internet Edition Speakers at a seminar jointly organized by UNICEF, the southern Punjab organization Message, and the Islamabad-based non-governmental organization Amal said that Pakistanis between the ages of 20 and 29 represent the greatest proportion of reported AIDS cases in the country. Amal head Dr. Akhtar noted that many people from the region of Multan live abroad and are potential carriers of the disease. Additionally, he said that the area generally discouraged discussion of the disease and sexuality, preventing AIDS awareness.

"Health: Young Women Need More Education"

IPS Wire

The U.S.-based Alan Guttmacher Institute reports that women aged 10 to 19 need greater access to reproductive health services and education. The report, based on data from 53 countries, found that girls receive less schooling than their male counterparts in many developing countries. The president of the Institute, Jeannie Rosoff, said: "Indifference, wishful thinking and denial will not prepare their children, particularly their girls, to take their rightful place in a modernizing world." It also determined that most of the girls have their first sexual experience as an adolescent, with contraceptive use low compared to demand, despite increased overall use. In sub-Saharan Africa, some 80 percent of girls have sexual intercourse before the age of 20; about 60

percent of girls have sex before age 20 in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the report, contraceptive services in developing nations are often focused on older women and do not provide confidentiality and privacy to adolescents.

"HIV Naysayers Find Their Achilles Heal" POZ

A dissident movement that maintains that HIV is harmless is attracting increasing attention. One of the most prominent members of the movement is the University of California at Berkeley's Peter Duesberg, who claims that recreational and pharmaceutical drugs are responsible for AIDS. Joining Duesberg in his beliefs are the group HEAL, which began in New York City more than 15 years ago as a forum for alternative treatments and now has 28 chapters worldwide, and the Group for the Scientific Reappraisal of the HIV/AIDS Hypothesis, which has hundreds of members. AIDS prevention groups contend that the dissident groups pose a threat to prevention efforts and are undermining their efforts; some dissidents claim, among other things, that HIV is harmless and not transmittable through sexual contact. For example, AIDS education efforts at the State University of New York at Purchase were hampered last year, when a letter from a HEAL supporter that appeared in the school's student magazine asserted that condoms were "irrelevant" to HIV prevention and that doctor-prescribed treatments "actually cause AIDS and will kill you." Some dissidents have taken the message to an extreme level, claiming that treatments which have been proven effective, such as PCP prophylaxis and protease inhibitor regimens, are the source of AIDS. Despite the

evidence on the efficacy of these drugs, many HIV-infected individuals choose to ignore the studies. Michael Onstott, a California alternative treatment activist, suggests, "It's appealing to say, 'If I clean up my life and avoid these drugs, I'll be OK.'"

"Czech Republic Vulnerable to HIV Epidemic"


Reuters

Health Information Services Researchers have found that while HIV infection in the Czech Republic is relatively rare, the nation is at risk for an epidemic because of the prevalence of high-risk behaviors in the region. Dr. Joromir Mikl of the New York State Department of Health in Albany and a multi-center team surveyed almost 1,400 patients from a Prague sexually transmitted disease clinic between 1994 and 1995 and found a high rate of unprotected heterosexual sex. The report, published in the April issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, also details the prevalence of prostitution, male homosexual sex, and intravenous drug use.

"Israel to Fund 'Cocktail' Drugs for AIDS Patients"

CNN Interactive Online

The Israeli government will begin funding for multidrug regimens for HIV-infected individuals. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said, "The significance of the decision is the people infected with AIDS or AIDS carriers needing treatment by 'cocktail' medications will receive full funding from health funds." The drug regimen costs about \$13,150 per patient annually.



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The Pride Awards Committee is proud to present Pride Certificates

to the following for their outstanding contributions to Edmonton's Community in the past year.

To the Law Firm of **Chivers Greckol and Kane** For their commitment and hard work towards the achievement of Equal Legal Rights for Gays and Lesbians in Alberta

To **Ruth and Dennis Vriend** for their proud support and ongoing encouragement of Delwin Vriend's Human Rights case, - contributing to a positive result both for Delwin and for Edmonton's GLBT Community.

To the organizers of the 1998 **Sexuality and Spirituality Conference** For providing a groundbreaking forum to explore the intersections of spirituality and sexuality

To the publishers and contributors of **Times.10 Magazine - Dennis Cambly** For providing a forum for the sharing of ideas and information within Edmonton's Gay community

To **Tina Taylor** For her outstanding volunteerism and her commitment to organizing social events for Lesbians in Edmonton through Womonspace

To **Ron Griffith** For his consistent hard work in organizing fun, recreational events for Gay Edmontonians through O2, the Free to Be Volleyball Association and with Team Edmonton

Alvin Schrader for his long term commitment to challenging censorship and the defence of free speech within Library systems

To **Anne Etienne** for her involvement with Womonspace since it's inception - and for providing music for GLBT community events for more than a decade.

To the **Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton** on the occasion of their 20th Anniversary. For providing a spiritual home for GLBT people to practice their faith in a Christian Tradition and for providing leadership to gay-positive clergy of other faiths.

Dignity/e on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of providing friendship, support, spiritual development and personal growth; incorporating their sexual orientation and their Catholic faith.

To **Alcoholics Anonymous (GAY AA)** on the occasion of their 15th Anniversary of providing weekly meetings for Gay and Lesbian members of

Alcoholics Anonymous in Edmonton, to do their recovery programs in an open and supportive environment.

To the **A.I.D.S. Network of Edmonton Volunteer Program**

For facilitating the contribution of thousands of volunteer hours of helping people with HIV and AIDS Related Illness. For Delivering prevention and education programs, raising funds and training volunteers.

For ensuring that the organization continues to function and for providing services not available elsewhere in a n appropriate, professional and caring manner.

To **Tamara Leigh** for her leadership and her energetic work, organizing events for GLBT Youth through the University of Alberta's OUT Reach Student Group



A.I.D.S. Network in leading the Gay Men's Outreach Crew, developing safer sex

information and seminars, training of workshop facilitators, developing and leading a series of coming out and self worth workshops for gay and bisexual men, for training the AIDS Network service volunteers, and for their leadership at the network and in other community events. (Lindy, these guy's are apparently not partners in real life, just in volunteer activities).

The Irwin award

goes to two people;

Agathe Gaulin who has been instrumental in building a strong foundation for Womonspace and establish the organizations place in the community, as well as running as an out lesbian and N.D.P. candidate in the riding of Bonnyville/St. Paul to challenge the right wing stance of the incumbent, Ernie (yucky) Islie. The other award goes to **Kristy Harcourt** who, since coming out around the early 90's has done too much to recount in a short article. Among the highlights is being the project assistant for the 'fag' project at Latitude 53, editing the Pink Triangle supplement at the U. of A. in 95-96, helping organize Pride week activities several years in a row, teaching Sunday school, being active in community league events, thinking up and facilitating celebratory and educational events such as the Vriend victory potluck - thus introducing both gay men and Unitarians to that historic form of lesbian celebration; and of course hosting gay wire for the past several years.

The Phair award

goes to **Jim Sheremeta** and **Brian Mader** for their 12 years of volunteer work through the

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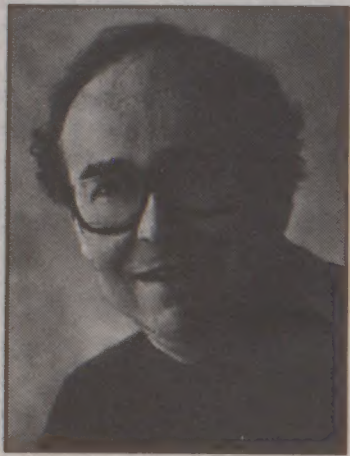
BOOTS

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Capital City Politics



AN ERA ENDS — PART II

By Michael Phair
Edmonton City Councillor

In the May issue of Times .10, I wrote about the days between April 2 when the Supreme Court decision on the Delwin Vriend case was given out and April 9 when the Klein government decided not to use the 'notwithstanding clause'. In that article I both related that I had gotten numerous vicious and hateful calls and letters and my fear because of the personal attacks that I received.

After speaking out I was pleased and surprised at the number of reassuring calls and letters that I received. I heard from many Edmontonians, Albertans and from a number of people across Canada. Over and over the message that I got was two fold: this negative outcry has gone too far and most people can easily live within the decision of the Supreme Court. The public response helped to clarify to me and to the provincial government that the vast majority of Albertans were not upset with the Supreme Court decision but were upset that this had gone so far and were anxious for Klein to end the debate.

From my perspective the Klein decision to abide by the Supreme Court decision and not allow discrimination based on sexual orientation ended an era—a time characterized by government sanctioned prejudice, stereotypes

and discrimination. It was also a time when many of us and other persons and groups advocated and fought for these basic rights for nearly 20 years.

It may seem as if little has changed but I think that is not the case at all. We have moved to where it is now possible to use the Alberta Human Rights Commission to redress discrimination based on sexual orientation in the work place, housing and in the delivery of services (being served at a restaurant, medical services, etc.). Ending discrimination against us is now the official agenda of the government. Educational efforts will now include sexual orientation. Other sectors will take their cue from the government and **I think that means we will find the media much more careful and restrained in what they portray,** businesses will

endeavour to make their work places free of discrimination and funding bodies will more seriously entertain proposals from gay and lesbian groups or service groups that wish to work with lesbians and gays. Legally some members of the provincial government can talk about 'fences' but I suspect that very little can or will stand up in court. Although it will take a long time, negative attitudes of Albertans will also change about lesbians and gays—among many young people it already has!

The end of this era also means that lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people will need to make changes. No longer will we be able to hide behind the excuse that we are not protected, therefore not coming out at work or in the community. It will be increasingly difficult to keep the media from using names or pictures on the basis that one might lose a job. Of course it also provides the basis for holding one's head up high, for strengthening one's self-esteem and for developing a positive gay-identified self image as a NEW and EQUAL Albertan! Welcome to the new Alberta!

Councillor Michael Phair
Ward 4

(If you need assistance or have questions about the city please contact my office. 496-8146 phone, 496-8113 fax, or e-mail: mphaire@gov.edmonton.ab.ca.)



Why this government doesn't Work

By Laurie Blakeman - MLA

There is an extremely important, though largely unknown, facet of any government's budgetary process, that is: debating the budget. The time when members of the opposition, as well as backbenchers from the government side, are able to analyze and question how taxpayer's money is to be spent department by department. The law provides for 20 days of debate. In reality, this becomes only 10 days under the rules as written in Alberta today.

How it works is this: the Government sets 2 committees comprised of 83 MLAs who meet simultaneously. This then brings the 20 days down to 10 days. These committees meet mostly in the evenings around 8 o'clock for 2 hours. Because of the physical logistics and the requirement to reassemble in the House for reporting back, the 2 hours set aside becomes in reality approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes. During the debates in committee, the Opposition does not receive a specific allotted time to ask questions. Government backbenchers are of course part of the committees and are able to ask questions just as the Opposition - except there are more of them and the process itself lends itself to large amounts of time being expended by the Government side. Additionally, the big 5 departments, Health, Education, Social Services, Justice, and Community Development are designated by the Government to receive 4 hours of debate. These sessions are scheduled at 7 a.m., outside the hours of the Legislature and, as a result, don't come under the general scrutiny of the House as the others do at 10:00 p.m. each night. As the Opposition Critic for the Department of Community Development, I had 20 minutes to debate a \$350 million budget. I don't know about you, but I don't think this is not sufficient time to do a good job and represent the interests of my constituents in an effective way.

Another problem with the budgetary

process in Alberta is the way Appropriation Bills are handled. Prior to March 31 (government year-end), the Government is able to transfer money from the budget surplus to cover deficits within Departments. For instance, Community Development received \$550 million toward the Alberta Seniors Benefit. As we are all aware, it is not possible by law for the Government to have a deficit. But what the Government has done is download these deficits they aren't allowed to have onto Regional Health Authorities and municipalities.

One question comes to my mind in all this is: How can it be called good fiscal management to have a budgetary surplus but at the same time not provide services like healthcare when Albertans need it? Other questions can be raised over process and what it means when majority governments can re-write rules of process that impair the ability of those not on the governing side of the House to participate fully and fairly.

Of course, I would like to hear your views on this, or any other issue of concern to you. You may contact the office at 414-0473, Fax 414-0772 or email blakeman@oanet.com.

So That's What They're Afraid Of!

By Reverend Charles Bidwell

During the month from hell when the Supreme Court of Canada told Alberta to do the right thing and the religious fanatics cried impending calamity, I wondered what they were afraid of. I think understand a part of their (our?) fear now.

When the decision came down that non-heterosexually-oriented people must be protected from discrimination, a well-financed campaign in the media and by fax to Alberta churches proclaimed alarmist, fear-mongering statements. None of these statements were based on fact. All of them played on the cords of distrust and disdain that are strung in each of us, regardless of our sexual orientation. These statements and letters were calls of alarm that the slippery slope to dire social and personal consequences had been entered. The family was under siege and needed defending, they shouted. Perverse sexual

practice would become rampant, they screamed. They betrayed a moral and mortal fear. But why?

Similar legislation in other provinces had been emotionally fought over, and when implemented, those provinces had not suffered measurable dire consequences. What was the root of their fear?

We need to examine the source of fear because irrational fear (phobia) is harmful on two counts. Rational fear is protective: it makes us respect and protect ourselves from wild carnivores, life threatening viruses, and dangerous physical situations. Irrational fear builds barriers to acceptance of people who are different from us and thus blocks agape love. Irrational fear is also harmful because it leads to violence. Ignorance breeds fear (we naturally suspect and fear the unknown and the unfamiliar) and that fear leads us into the temptation of violence: bash the bugger, kill the queer; deck the dyke.

Where does this fear of difference come from? It comes from deep within each of us; deep within all of us is a stinking pile of shame. We deny its existence with major effort and it grows. In our society, erotic playful sexual activity is deemed shameful (it might be tolerated within the state of matrimony, but it is still suspect). Sexual behaviour is highly controlled by fear of censure, disgrace and shame. Many people pride themselves in being "good Christian people" and they shun any sexual thoughts, feelings, and actions which are not sanctioned or blessed by their church or someone's interpretation of the Bible's

dictums. Many of us are taught to fear Eros, with the result that we shun and vilify any group of people who wantonly embrace their erotic nature. People who play sexually are suspect and censured or oppressed. Because some heterosexually oriented people are erotophobic, they project their shame and fear on those people who challenge or defy their values and dare to consider sexual behaviours as a form of play - recreative, rather than procreative.

What some heterosexually oriented people may secretly fantasize doing, many non-heterosexually oriented people do. Such deviance evokes envy and anger on the part of the restricted ones, because the liberated ones seem to thumb their noses at the constraints. There is a horizontal version of this homophobia, which makes some homosexually oriented folks show disdain and disapproval of flavours of sexual activity other than "vanilla" (such as Strawberry & Mocha, Banana & Date, Licorice).

Lesbians are a threat, because they refuse to play the role of compliant wives and submissive girl friends. Many heterosexually oriented men are threatened - the family is threatened because "My God, what will happen if all women refuse to be controlled by men!"

When an ignorant person writes that what I do sexually is repulsive, disease promoting, and ungodly, he does not know or care about my personal sexual behaviour (and he need never know for it will never impact his life). He writes from his imagination: his unsettling dark interior fantasies, his discomfort with his erotic body, and his emotional heritage of

shame and revulsion at anything beyond his personal comfort level. There is an animal within him (and all of us) that he must cage and the thought, let alone the sight, of anyone releasing and playing with this animal is frightening to him.

When we are held captive by irrational fear, difference becomes a dangerous deviance. The challenge we all face in these, and all times is to reduce the volume of irrational fear and make room for releasing more love. Let us not fight back against the fanatical right with their tools, but let us relate to them with empathy, for we too have shunned and feared our brothers and sisters who express themselves in sexual behaviours different from ours. Let us learn how to embrace difference and overcome our phobias so that we will be better able to understand what we are asking others to do with regard to our differences.

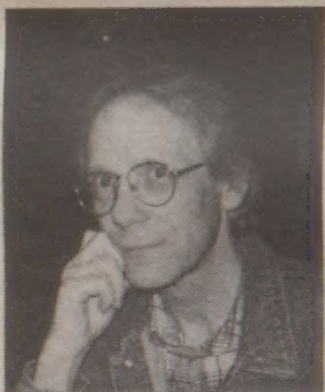
We may well be a threat to their world view and value system. They may feel that their comfortable social structure is being challenged. They claim that homosexually-oriented people are well-organized (that idea betrays their ignorance) and that they have an "agenda" (as if they don't and as if having an agenda is a reprehensible thing to have). I don't know what our agenda is other than to be treated with respect as an equal. If we have an agenda, it is not to oppress or restrict anyone else: it is not to spread fear and hatred; it is not to preserve privilege

and exert power over others.

Having said that, I can understand some of their fear about losing control over sexual expression; I still do not appreciate why some of the heterosexual majority feel threatened and forced to build "fences" around legislation. They seem to fear that non-heterosexually oriented people will gain rights that so far are exclusively the privilege of heterosexually oriented people. But what will it cost them, beyond exclusivity? What will be lost if homosexually oriented people gain the right and respect to have their committed partnerships blessed and then gain same-sex spousal status equivalent to common-law couples? What will that do to the bonds (bondage) of marriage? Why does marriage need to be 'protected'? What does it need to be protected from? Homosexually oriented people come from families and often create their own families. What does "the family" need to be protected from? What form of family is to be protected?

There are fears that need to be faced by all of us. We need to examine our fears to determine which ones are rational and helpful and which are irrational and erode love and trust within our community. We are called to face the demon fears that live within our minds and spirits. We are also called to name these demons and evict them to make room for loving tenants.

Happy spring house cleaning.



From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly

Did somebody turn up the heat or is there a taste of summer in the air?

Hmm, does it ever taste sweet. There are smiles for miles everywhere in the faces of the young and old. Doesn't freedom taste wonderful now that it is ever so close? Has it not been a bit of fun being on the frontlines over the past years to now see the defense lines of enemy caving in around them? We might feel now just what it was for all the people who fought the Nazi regime and watched it crushed in defeat. The time has now come for the Klein's of this province to file for refugee status in perhaps, Colorado. The great tyranny of the dictatorship is now collapsing and what a joy it is to watch. Was it not one of our most colourful days in front of the city hall? Speaking of idiots where was that "mayor" of the Capital City. Perhaps cowering down in the basement of the legislature with his follow friends. You know the ones who tried to crush the morale of our city while leaving their precious Calgary alone. Just couldn't

stop all those people and all that colour right in front of City Hall.

There is a by-election coming up in June in Edmonton. Let's blast that bastard back down to Calgary, again!

We had been sending out copies of Times .10 to the Tories since last summer. Issue after issue we received the copies back with assorted remarks on them. Then we received a phone call, asking us to stop sending them out to the Tories because the "gay" thing was not an issue "they" were interested in. They really did not want to listen to the people of Edmonton talk about the many issues that face us day after day. Somehow they forgot that this is the Capital City in the Province of Alberta.

We have covered some deep subject matters in this issue of Times .10. AIDS is now the number one killer amongst 16 to 25 year olds. For those who watched in horror as the epidemic took many friends and loved ones away, you haven't seen anything yet. The

next wave is going to be even bigger. Our government spends basically nothing on AIDS awareness or research in this province. The Federal government is not doing much more. The first phase III trial for an AIDS vaccine is now underway in the United States and other countries, but not Canada. And forget it when it comes to Alberta, because they are too busy funding private schools. The slash and burn policy of our Health Care system is still taking its toll on our Doctors, Nurses and the people of the province. Keep in mind that it was not we the taxpayers, who created the deficit, it was the Tory government that spent our money like children in a candy store, (or pigs at the trough).

So let's continue our celebration by getting out to vote in the by-election. Every vote counts in a constitutional democracy. Don't forget, this current government had to be told

that it is one, by the Highest Court in our Country!!

Our thanks go out to the Pride Committee for giving Times .10 an award. It is for the hundreds of volunteers and all the businesses that have kept this publication funded over the past six years. You have stayed on the front lines and never abandoned your city once over all these years. Times .10 is the Capital City news and information magazine for and about you. If you have Internet access you can find many great stories on our home site published over those years. It is a living history of Edmonton gay and gay friendly people and some interesting guest writers from afar. In the next few weeks we will be posting zipped up packets of the back issues for you to download. You can find us on the Internet at www.times10.org.

Remember that we publish July and August as a single issue. So get your information or articles in by June 20th. Have a wonderful summer filled June with loads of fun. You fought for your freedom right here in the Capital City, so use it well.

Cute, Pretty & AIDS

What Are Young Gay Men's HIV Prevention Needs?

Are young gay men at risk?

Unfortunately, yes. Accumulating research shows alarmingly high HIV prevalence rates among young gay men and high rates of sexual risk-taking, suggesting that young gay men in their 20's are forging a "second wave" of the AIDS epidemic. During the 1980s, the median age at HIV infection was older than 30 years. It dropped to 25 years during the period from 1987 to 1991. From 1987 to 1991, one in every four newly infected individuals in the US was age 22 or under.(1) A recent study of 425 gay men aged 18-29 in San Francisco, CA found that 18% were already infected with HIV, with a seroincidence rate of 2.6% per year: among the 27-29 year olds, 29% were HIV+.(2) Another study which sampled young gay men aged 17-22 from public venues such as bars, street corners, dance clubs and parks found 9% of the men to be HIV positive.(3) Young African-American men were found to have especially high HIV seroprevalence (21%). A study of gay men aged 18-24 in New York City found 9% HIV positive.(4) What places young gay men at risk? In contrast to studies with older gay men which demonstrate dramatic reductions in HIV risk-taking behaviors,(5,6) a variety of studies show that young gay men are engaging in high rates of unsafe sex. In a survey of gay men aged 18-25 in three medium-sized West Coast communities, 43% of the sample reported having engaged in unprotected anal intercourse during the previous 6 months.(7) A study of gay and bisexual adolescent males in Minnesota found that 63% were at "extreme risk" due to unprotected anal intercourse or intravenous drug use.(8) A San Francisco telephone survey showed that 44% of gay men under the age of 30 had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse during the previous year, compared to 18% of the men over age 30.(9)



What contributes to risk taking?

A complex array of factors - at individual, interpersonal and community levels - contributes to the high sexual risk-taking of young gay men. Since the bulk of AIDS cases among gay men is among men aged 30-40, many young gay men perceive AIDS as a disease of older men and feel it is safe to have unprotected sex with other young men. Most young men know how HIV is transmitted and men who engage in unprotected sex do label their behavior as putting themselves at risk for AIDS. Nonetheless, with their feelings of invulnerability typical of youth, young men may feel the negative consequences "won't happen to me".(7) Young men are often in an exploratory phase with regard to sexuality which may entail high numbers of partners and a willingness to try a variety of activities. Due to inexperience, young men may be less competent in negotiating low-risk sex and less knowledgeable about making safe sex activities enjoyable. Coming out as gay can also be a period of great emotional turbulence, resulting in low self-esteem and depression which may reduce their feelings of self-efficacy and motivation for safe sex.(10) Further, protecting one's health is not necessarily a young gay man's top concern. Interpersonal motivations may be more pressing - wanting to fit in, to find companionship and intimacy. However, interpersonal issues can also contribute to unsafe sex.

For young gay men, unsafe sex is most likely to occur with a boyfriend - someone whose affection is very important to them.(7) The social structure and norms of the young gay subculture may not be entirely conducive to safer sex. In many communities, gay bars and public cruising settings provide the main opportunities for young gay men to meet and socialize. Yet each is highly sex-charged and the bar scene's emphasis on alcohol sets the stage for engaging in sex while high - consistently found to contribute to unsafe sex.

What works for young gay men?

Despite enormous need, only a handful of programs specifically targeting young gay men have been designed and evaluated. Individualized risk-reduction counseling followed by peer education and referrals to drug, counseling and health services were reported to be an effective strategy for decreasing unprotected anal intercourse among gay male adolescents in Minneapolis, MN.(11) In New York City, an intensive, multi-session small group intervention was offered to gay youth aged 14-19 seeking services at a community-based agency for gay youth; the more sessions youth attended, the more dramatic the changes in risk behavior.(12) Community-level programs can reach large numbers of young men. One successful program promoted a norm for safer sex among young gay men

AN INVITATION

to all

Gay & Gay Friendly Business Owners/Operators

General Meeting, Thursday, June 4th
from 8:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Place: The Garage, 10244-106 Street

Purpose

To foster better relationships between
community businesses

To help strengthen our businesses

To assist in making each other aware of
the service(s) we offer

To show unity within our community

To find ways and means to support our
community groups

For further information contact

Jim Schafer at 423-5014 or
Dallas Rossman at 488-1553

through a variety of social, outreach and small group activities designed and run by young men themselves. Rates of unprotected anal intercourse dropped from 40% to 31% after the intervention. The program found that young men engaging in unsafe sex who were unlikely to attend workshops were more likely to be reached through outreach activities - such as dances, movie nights, picnics, gay rap groups, and volleyball games.(13) STOP AIDS's Q Action, in San Francisco, CA, is a community organizing model that promotes HIV prevention by putting the power for designing and implementing interventions directly into the hands of young gay men. Youth-oriented media can also be used creatively to reach large numbers of young gay men. In Australia, ads promoting HIV prevention peer support groups appeared in popular youth magazines across the country. Over 1,300 young men responded. Follow-up questionnaires showed that 73% had not told a family member about being gay, and 48% had told no one. Direct mail was also found to be highly successful for sending AIDS and sexuality information to gay adolescents in rural, isolated, or culturally difficult environments who would otherwise not access support.(14)

What needs to be done?

Since there are multiple factors that contribute to HIV risk-taking among young gay men, multi-level prevention programs are necessary - programs that impact variables at individual, interpersonal and social system levels. Funding, designing, implementing and evaluating HIV prevention programs for young gay men must be a high priority to halt the AIDS epidemic. The myth that the gay community has been saturated with AIDS prevention services is in serious need of debunking. New young men will come out each year who have not been exposed to prevention campaigns of previous years, thus

HIV prevention for young gay men must be ongoing and dynamic. Engaging, creative programs are needed that address HIV prevention within the contexts of young gay men's lives, incorporating issues of self-esteem, coming out, substance use and interpersonal and social needs. Community-level and peer outreach programs are especially promising, and services for young gay men of color are particularly needed. Since previous sexual history is a strong predictor of current risk-taking behavior, intervention at an early point in a young man's sexual initiation will be maximally effective.(9) Societal homophobia may impede implementing effective prevention programs for gay youth and may discourage young gay men from accessing prevention services.(15) Political concerns must not interfere with HIV prevention services for young gay men. A comprehensive HIV prevention strategy uses multiple elements to protect as many of those at risk of HIV infection as possible. Targeting young gay men with AIDS prevention messages and services is not "condoning" or "promoting" homosexuality, it is acting responsibly in the face of a grave public health threat. Unless action is taken quickly, we will lose a new generation of gay men.

Says who?

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Prepared by Robert B. Hays, PhD

Reproduction of this text is encouraged; however, copies may not be sold, and the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California San Francisco should be cited as the source of this information.

Harold Smith

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INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN
TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

Townhall Meeting, May 20, 1998
For the GLBT Community and Its
Supporters
Unitarian Church of Edmonton

"Life after Vriend"

At the open invitation of GALA, over 50 people on a sunny, warm, spring evening came indoors to move our GLBT community forward "After Vriend". Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) is an incorporated society whose mandate is to make sexual orientation a part of Alberta's human rights legislation. As of April 2nd, 1998, that goal, after years of committed effort on the part of many people, has been achieved. Halleluia!

But what do we need to do now? Roz Ostendorf organized the event, Kristy Harcourt served as MC and Murray Billett recalled what had been accomplished so far and suggested what was needed now.

People and organizations on the extreme right are mobilizing and urging limitations on the rights that have been so hard won. They are petitioning churches to fund their reactionary campaigns and the Socreds are making restriction and resistance a platform for the upcoming election.

There is work for us to do on at least three fronts. We need to be ready—organized and with colleagues (a coalition of groups)—for the next struggle for justice, equity and respect. We need to be moving positively and pro-actively so that there is less fear and more acceptance of diversity in our city and province.

The gathering moved into subgroups around the three topics: Internal Education, External Education, and Political Action. When folks gathered after those sessions, most of them filled out volunteer forms, so we are building groups of people willing to work. Here are their reports at the end of the evening. Please consider working on one of these task groups. Call one of the leaders with your ideas and an offer to help on a task.

Internal Education Sub-Group
Sherry McKibben and Edward Sandberg
- 493-0087
PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED:

- We don't communicate well among ourselves.
- Temptation of becoming complacent after "Vriend"; apathetic attitude ("Why bother?" "It's won, now." "What's the use?") has been prevalent within our community.
- Our fear of being outed – not everyone in our community can cross that barrier
- Identifying our community – what is it, who is included, how can we name it
There is not A "GLBT Community"; there are probably several "communities". We are as diverse as the heterosexual community, so it's hard to speak with one voice. And we are all also part of other communities (religious, ethnic, social, work, volunteer service, etc.)
- We have "In" people and "Out" people together with a variety of sexual orientations (hetero & homo) and a diversity within these orientations, so we need to approach the "in" and "out" folks differently and the various sub-communities in ways that are appropriate to their needs and interests.
- Media focus on the sensational "freaky" aspects of our community – especially the drag queens and leather folk who push the boundaries. Ever heard someone say, "It's folks like that who give us a bad name"

SUPPORT FOR EACH OTHER:

- **Networking** – Find ways to empower our allies and ourselves. Peers: Pick a piece of information from GLBT meetings and events to share with those you meet who are shy about attending GLBT events or afraid of activism. Let them know that they can serve behind the scenes stuffing envelopes while others march with placards before the media. Allies: Share news or personal experiences with five friends and give them permission to share your news or experience with others. Help your "straight-but-not-narrow" friends become allies and talk to others so they will be able to know someone who is affected by discrimination and oppression by the radical right.
- **Expect Respect** – In the presence of GLBT put-down jokes, say "That's not OK" or "Stop right now so we can avoid the awkward silence at the end when I don't laugh." or "Some of my close friends are GLBT and I find that joke offensive."
- **Communication** – Community TV on weekend evening? Listen to our programs on CJSR 88.5 FM ("Queeries" 5pm on Wed & "Gaywire" 6pm on Thur); GLBT News in the paper once a week – a column once a month? Set up a faxing program for Media Releases (little or no cost). Submit items to Times.10 and Outlook and See and Vue.
- **Mutual Respect for Diversity** – Acknowledge our diversity. Learn to be comfortable with people who are different from us. Respect those who are trying to

live authentically, with integrity, but differently than we might choose to live. If we want society to accept us, we need to accept each other. Work to reduce horizontal violence (trashing others of our orientation who are not like us) and internal homophobia (hating and hiding our true identities – living masked in fear – shunning anything related to homosexuality or bisexuality)

- **Integrity Model and Mentor** – be an out, healthy, happy GLBT person and show others that it is possible; blow our own horn when an out person does something helpful and well. Make the "Pride Awards" a media event – good news is hard to sell, so we need to work at it.

External Education Sub-Group

Charles Bidwell – 436-8774 and Julie Lloyd – 497-7755

[Public Awareness, Destroying Myths, Reducing Fear, Gaining a Voice, Putting a Personal Face on GLBT Persons]

GOALS:

Safer Schools – so students are not harassed, teased for their characteristics or those of their parent(s). Create or distribute resources to help teachers and students and staff. Have information packages and speakers for presentations to day cares, preschools, and other childcare facilities. School should not hurt GLBT children. Develop materials and Web Pages for distance education and Internet resources (e.g. hyperlink <http://www.ualberta.ca/~cbidwell/eses/eses.html> <http://www.ualberta.ca/~cbidwell/eses/eses-pki.html>) so children can get information even if their schools do not provide it.

Support for Smaller Centres – so children in those areas do not feel so isolated and disconnected and so their families have

supportive information and connections (e.g. P-FLAG). Take an artistic, entertaining presence to Edson, etc. so local GLBT folks can know that they are not alone and others can realize that we are not to be feared. Create or promote "neutral" publications to counter Alberta Report's view for waiting rooms. Edmonton Social Planning Council has produced some fine issues and may work with us on a new one.

A Voice and a Seat at the Table – so we become a visible presence and fight the lies and myths on boards and committees. Speak up and give a different view in our organizations than the radical right is promoting. Get on boards and committees so our concerns are considered and our voice is heard in debates and decisions where power to change is located. Talk to and visit your MLA and Councilor to share your concerns and keep them informed of what our community is facing. Educate Alberta Authorities – so leaders have "direct & correct" knowledge to make informed decisions. Contact and provide speakers for professional organizations, large and small businesses (Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Teachers Association, Alberta Health, Edmonton City Police (Liaison Committee is almost a secret to the public and the closeted GLBT person and the "Bashing" poster is not yet visible in precinct stations), Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board, health care unions, Edmonton City Employees – they have a diversity education officer, etc.)

Become Visible – so fewer people can say they don't personally know anyone who is GLBT. Be OUT; be a vocal and visible presence in your daily living! Fight the myths and lies about our lifestyles with statements about folks you know (without

CAUTION: B.E.A.R.S. CROSSING!

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton are a non-profit social and volunteer group for Hairy Gay Men and their admirers. We are currently looking for enthusiastic guys to join and to help plan and work on events in Edmonton's Gay community.

If you have some time to spare and would enjoy socializing with Hairy Gay Men of all shapes and sizes, WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Write us at Box #47, 10024 - 82nd Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1Z3 Or visit our website at <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~bears>

We are not affiliated with any sports group, magazine or broadcaster with the word "Bear" in it's name.



On the Dark

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naming and outing them).

Be Active Commercially – do not purchase from companies with homophobic and discriminatory practices and policies. Let them know why you are choosing not to patronize their businesses. Do purchase from companies with liberal and diverse practices and policies and let them know why you are choosing them over their competition.

Award Rewards – so those who do the right thing get bouquets and those who don't get pointed out. Pride Awards are a good beginning but too private. Tell the media when we give certificates of merit or failing report cards.

SOLUTIONS / TASKS:

Publicity - Create or distribute written documentation / pamphlets such as P-FLAG has to school libraries, school counselors offices, Alberta Teachers Association, Alberta Education, Community Centres/Leagues, Alberta Human Rights Commission, etc.

- Create a site on the Internet for folks (students) seeking info and to keep our dispersed "community" informed (alerted).
- Get ourselves involved and present at the International Human Rights Conference here in November.
- Get on the agenda for conferences/conventions (such as AFL, NDP, etc.)
- Develop or support theatre or music or arts projects; CBC might be interested in interviewing some of us for a program like "Voices" telling something of our life experiences
- Work with the media – help them understand that we know what we are doing and we won't turn back or be fenced in. Create a Media Liaison Committee to meet with the media periodically to inform them of what we are doing or experiencing and to be ready to respond when an event grabs their attention.
- We Are Family – use the word and embrace its values within the context of a diversity of families – chosen and based on love (not law or blood)

Allies – identify and create mailing lists for specific groups (legal, medical, teachers, business, corporate, unions, foster parenting association, etc.)

- to get them information to counter myths and fears and encourage their support
- to approach each differently, focussing on their interests (a win-win situation)
- to get included under larger topics (such as safety) to increase the number of people
- to build on our support in the NDP and Liberal parties
- politicians – build relationships with the Conservatives via individual MLAs (help them, inform them); some of them might also be concerned about the fear-mongering and power-pressuring of the radical right
- churches – talk to small groups of people; share your story of journey in faith and acceptance of sexual orientation as a gift from Creator; identify supportive groups; give a view different from the radical religious right
- women's groups – business and professional women, Rotary Clubs, etc.; share your story of being an independent woman and a lesbian (a Miss who never Mrs.) woman who will not become dependent on a man.
- Build ties with other minority groups inform them of what is in it for them to support our struggles.

FIRST STEPS:

1. Identify a target group to contact and decide who will approach them and how; report the results and share what you learned from that approach.
2. Locate and access funding sources; are there social science research projects wanted that could focus on us? Alberta Human Rights Commission education funds, Lee Foundation, Canadian Human Rights Commission, etc.
3. Research what other jurisdictions have done; their printed materials, resources, funding sources, tips on activism, etc.

"Discrimination hinders Coming Out, but Coming Out hinders Discrimination."

Political Action Sub-Group

Barry Breau – 469-4286 and Lorna Murray – 423-6987

Seventeen people discussed political action; of these, eleven have not been involved at all before in the "Political" work of our community, but the Vriend decision and its aftermath have spurred them to want to

do something.

ISSUES RAISED:

➤ **Inclusiveness:** Which issues involve les-bi-gays and which ones also include transgendered people? Gender has been covered for some years in our provincial legislation.

➤ **Alberta Legislation:** What is the Alberta Government's legislative fence-building committee of four up to? We need to be prepared for what the government might do here. We need to anticipate their arguments and be strategically prepared. It would be useful for us to have two bodies of knowledge - one of the language and process of politics, stages of legislation, how to lobby, etc., and another of a preview and review of upcoming legislative actions that might affect our community.

➤ **Popular Support:** 70-80% of Albertans support us: How can we keep in touch with them and keep them working with us?

➤ **Family Issues:** On the issues of adoption, spousal benefits, pensions, etc., the number of supporters shrinks. How can we educate them and keep them on side? A recent case in Ontario Supreme Court will have far-reaching implications on spousal pension benefits; will it be challenged at Supreme Court of Canada? What is its impact in Alberta?

➤ **Media:** How can we convince the media

that the opposition to us is a small but noisy minority and that sometimes they focus on the sensational aspects of our community/events and actually feed the fear of the ultraconservative right. Can we work with the media to have our positions more accurately presented? Can we get our news into the mainstream media so that we access the LGBT people who are not involved and don't read/hear the gay media. Should we have a Media Liaison Committee?

FIRST STEPS:

1. Organize a "Politics 101" workshop to get everyone up to speed on political process and lingo - so that no one feels they don't have the tools to take action themselves
2. Use the upcoming by-election to air our issues; talk to and question candidates
3. Write letters to the provincial politicians who supported us in Vriend and let them know we appreciate their support and expect it to continue; (we are aware that the radical right is continuing to organize against us)

WATCH FOR: Announcements about "Politics 101" workshops - coming soon to a coffee shop near you!

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Saturday
11 - 4

Edmonton's Gay Community Support Groups and Services

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Network retains its original operating philosophy: to provide support and education wherever it can be helpful in north central Alberta. AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network call 488-5742

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30 - 9:30 PM For more info call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis at 434-4808

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

(A group for hairy men and their admirers) meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay, lesbian Catholics

and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426-7019. E-mail: mercury@planet.eon.net

Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian/gay community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

We have 3 divisions: 1) Fun/Recreational - Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; No regular commitment needed: Now until end of June you can join anytime. Fee: \$10.00/year: Level: Beginners to Intermediate: Donnan School - 79 Ave & 87 Street. 2) Competitive - Tuesdays, 7-9:30 p.m.; Fee \$35/8 week period; Coaching & Games each night. 3) Beach - Day/time/cost TBA; June to September. For more Volleyball information call Ron at 428-3375.

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Mens' Coffee Evenings

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities to "call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new

members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. Our main goal is to provide a safe, discreet and friendly atmosphere where we can socialize as a group. We also provide information and peer support for members. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club Please change the mailing address to Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Wednesday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots and Saddle or the Roost Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753 Weekly Sunday service at 7 p.m.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993 Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community for met a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more Info call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail:

Charles.Bidwell@UAlberta.Ca

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM. For information phone GLCCE at 488-3234 for more info. and add the e-mail address: geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information please call Gary Billet at (403) 454-8609 or Krystal -Seitner-Hager at (403) 489-1733.

Out and Out (O2)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbian/Gay Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O2 Hotline is 988-3132 for activity inf., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394, Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a day). E-mail: showrish@compusmart.ab.ca

S.O.L.O.

Social Organization for Lesbians Only is a group that gets together for fun and recreation. Lesbians over 18 are welcome to join in for weekend functions and entertainment. We combine friendship, companionship and support with singles and couples welcome. Call Linda at 447-4776 or Marlene at 488-3878.

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton call 482-2789

The Youth Group

"Youth Understanding Youth", meets every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 stree. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information or the give your input phone GLCCE at 488-3234 or email: glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Womonspace

The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

FIRST INTERNATIONAL GAYPOZ GATHERING

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
MAY 8th, 9th and 10th, 1998

by Bob Mills

GayPoz is an e-mail internet discussion list for **GAY MEN WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE** to share emotional support, medical information, and everyday life experiences, while **LIVING** with HIV and AIDS.

The First International GayPoz Get-together (GPG'98) took place in the beautiful setting of Vancouver, on May 8th, 9th and 10th, 1998. The gathering provided members of an e-mail support group a rare opportunity to actually meet face-to-face. The entire weekend was filled with laughter and merriment. Considering all participants are at various stages of HIV infection, this gaiety would have been dumbfounding to many HIV negative individuals. We were constantly reminded that we were **LIVING** with HIV and we took every opportunity to live full for these few days. Some of the GPG'98 participants have been members of GayPoz from its inception, including one of the current list maintainers Robert Huff from St. Louis.

The weekend was casual with some organized, but optional activities. On Friday, May 8th, introductions and attendee packages were handed out at a wine and cheese gathering at Bill Treeby's home, our host and one of the main organizers for the Vancouver get-together. Although the First International Gathering was small (27 participants) there was broad representation from Vancouver, Delta,

Surry, Edmonton, Calgary, Washington D.C., Phoenix, Petaluma, San Francisco, Dallas, St. Louis and London, England.

Participants gathered at the "infamous" Royal Hotel on Granville Street for its Friday afternoon beer bash, proving to ourselves that even though we are HIV positive or have AIDS, that we are "NOT DEAD YET". And the crowd was, as usual, cheek to cheek deep in men. Dinner followed as a suggestion at Cianti's on West 4th, a very "gay friendly" establishment. Others participated in sampling some of the local Asian cuisine in the nearby West End.

Saturday, May 9th, included an afternoon Harbour cruise aboard the MPV Constitution which we boarded near the foot of Denman Street. Our Saturday had to include an outing to the Dufferin on Seymour Street to watch the Go-Go boys and later the strippers. Some of the GayPoz participants were taken back by the total nudity of the strippers and their sporting erections - not legal in some US states. Dinner followed at the private Seymour Room, Arts Club Theatre on Granville Island. For those who love Pacific Cuisine, Baked Pacific Salmon was served, with Prime Rib being the alternate choice. We were all amazed at how much we all could eat while still finding room for the home made berry pies. Brief speeches were made, but laughter ensued all evening.

On Sunday, May 10th, one of our Vancouver hosts, Clyde Rowett, held The GPG'98 West Coast Buffet Brunch where final good-bye's were exchanged along with a "grab-bag" tacky souvenir exchange - affording me a perfect opportunity to get rid of my West Edmonton Mall plastic laminate place mats. **Our hearts were full, our throats stressed when it came time to hug one another and say good-bye.** We all bonded so quickly, perhaps something that comes along with being HIV positive? Who really knows?

Amongst all the fun, food and frivolity, we found our common bond of being HIV positive liberating for the most part. We exchanged horror stories and success stories and much laughter. We discussed our doctors and the attitudes we feel they should have when treating us. We discussed the ever changing list of available medications and their effectiveness in treating our disease. Mostly though, we were a group of HIV positive men, all at various stages in our illness, each with scars, fighting a terminal illness knowing we have continued support from more

than just "e-mail buddies" but actual faces and personalities. While this face-to-face encounter has enhanced our experiences as GayPoz members, it will make the loss of any member that much more veritable when we have to confront this reality in the future.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF GAYPOZ

During the early summer of 1995, the foundation was laid for what would eventually lead to the founding of the GayPoz internet Discussion List. At that time, there was in existence (and continues to be) an internet Discussion List named: HIV-Support. It was founded by Mr. Michael Davon the President of The Web-Depot Incorporated and a small group of HIV positive individuals. The purpose of this mailing list was then and remains today to provide for emotional support and sharing medical information for people with HIV or AIDS. List membership was and is available to any interested individuals regardless of their HIV sero-status, sexuality or gender.

During the month of August 1995 a number of HIV Positive Gay men began discussing the possible need for a separate mailing list that would restrict membership to only HIV Positive GAY men in order to be better able to discuss issues that they felt uncomfortable discussing in an environment that included members of both sexes, heterosexuals and HIV Negative individuals. After much discussion (and disagreement) Mr. Davon agreed to host such a list on his server(s) even though he personally disagreed with the information of such a list. Many HIV-Support members felt then that the creation of a "segregated" list would lead to the demise of HIV-Support. Quite the opposite has been true in that HIV-

Continued on page 18

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The Victoria Day long weekend in Edmonton may never be the same.

By Robert Smith

Edmonton Vocal Minority's presentation of the Canadian GALA Choruses: Festival '98 wrapped up in City Hall on Monday, May 18 with an unprecedented emotionally charged concert and common voice of hundreds (singers and non-singers) in resounding echoes of love and community. Heather Bishop, David Sereda, Svend Robinson and our own Michael Phair took turns wringing that last tear of joy out of each person under the protective and empowering pyramid of Edmonton's City Hall. Together with the 400+ singers who lined the stairs leading to the Council Chamber, there flowed rivers of love and happiness and a common recognition that we were participating in something that was far bigger than all of us.



The event at City Hall was the icing on what can only be described as an astounding event at a most opportune time. The entire weekend was a testimony to the capabilities of Edmontonians in their ability to play host/ess and inscribe upon the memory of our visitors an everlasting impression that this is indeed the City of Festivals.

Each of the chorus attending, from The Women Next Door of Halifax to Music of Victoria performed a quality of music that filled in the Canadian landscape between, giving an astonishing affirmation to our LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered) community.

The Festival '98 Committee and Edmonton Vocal Minority wish to acknowledge the amazing contribution of Tina Taylor and Womonspace in assisting us in the presentation of this remarkable weekend. There were many participants in this entire event, some of whom have put in literally years of work, like David Garber and the Board of EVM, but in the moment of need and true community co-operation, Tina and Womonspace took upon themselves the significant role of hosting and feeding our participants for the entire weekend, a true organizational feat. THANK YOU!!

Here are a few of the quotes we have received in our email. Before you go on, EVM wants to warmly thank EDMONTON for supporting Festival '98. EVM's continued success is due in every way to the level of enthusiasm shown toward our work by our community. We are humbled.

"I feel happy and deeply pleased to have visited Edmonton and felt supported in so many ways to have a good time and connect with my brothers and sisters in song. You did a wonderful, wonderful thing! So much work, so much thoughtfulness - meeting Musaic at the airport (twice!), arranging accommodations so close by and in such luxurious quantity, providing us with registration packages that offered stickers, coupons, local press to bring us up to date on your situation and recent victories, being so friendly and hospitable generally... It goes on and on! The Derivative Duo - wow! Watching the Vancouver Men's Chorus spontaneously break into choreography at the Sunday dance - so much strength and grace combined. The energy was high and warm all weekend. We sang on the plane coming and going - I think WestJet will never be the same! The gorgeous festival T-shirts. The professional tech and stage management services, the provision of great rehearsal spaces and, of course, Paula's (Roberts of Edmonton's Kiwanis Singers) inspired conducting."



Kelevelyn Hurley, second soprano/first alto, MUSAIC (Victoria, BC)

"I have absolutely nothing bad to say about my experience in Edmonton. A totally life-affirming experience. I made new friends (even among my own chorus, with people I don't usually have an opportunity to sit and chat with)

brought lots of new music back with me, and you can bet I'll be attending every GALA event I can from now on. Thank you all for doing such a fabulous job - you've certainly set the standard for the next host city." Jill Darke (of Singing Out! and Iris: The Toronto Women's Chorus)

"It's late Monday night (May 17th), just got off the plane from Edmonton but I must, must gush and thank you for a



stupendous Festival of Canadian Gay and Lesbian Choruses. In execution it was flawless, in spirit and talent it was breathtaking." Tony Hamill Forte - The Toronto Men's Chorus

"The closing ceremonies particularly were so moving...I have never experienced "anything like the feeling that was in the room when 600+ people sang along with Heather

Bishop for "Warrior" and David Sereda on "Powerful Love". Everyone was swaying arm in arm, clapping until their hands hurt and the tears flowed. Good friendships were made and re-made. We just didn't want to leave. Couldn't find a way to say "Good-bye" that didn't somehow diminish the whole experience.

Thank you Edmonton! You throw one hell of a party." Heather Clowers Vancouver Men's Chorus

"Never before have I felt so welcome and a part of the group then I did in Edmonton. You and all of your people created a family right across Canada. A family, which I am very proud to be part of." Grant Hunermund President, Forte - The Toronto Men's Chorus

"Folks we owe you a great debt. You gave us a festival full of

heart and passion, a forum that showed us the depth and diversity of Canadian choruses, joyful connections with the incomparable David Sereda and Heather Bishop, and first-class facilities to enjoy it in.

Many members of our chorus have spoken to me about the fabulous energy, pride and inspiration they are bringing home with them from Edmonton."

Barb Crisp President, Singing OUT (Toronto)

"Yes, we all had a marvellous time in Edmonton. The sounds and love will always remain in our hearts as we come back to our homes. I hope what they say is true, that every time you leave a place, you take a little of it with you. I want to take a lot of Edmonton with me."

Tim Wilson Administrator Singing OUT (Toronto)

"From all the men with the Calgary Men's chorus...a very BIG hug and thank you to all the men and women from EVM!!! We had a great time and what a great way to make our GALA (GALA Choruses International)." Robin Hogan, Calgary Men's Chorus

"Another chorus of thanks to Edmonton Vocal Minority and friends for their fabulous hosting of Canadian GALA Choruses Festival '98 - it was an amazing weekend and very powerful - I know the members of my choir came back with energy and enthusiasm to carry on and SING!" Stan Holman, Chair, Vancouver Lesbian and Gay Chorus

"I cannot begin to express my thanks to everyone in Edmonton who made it all happen. Nor can I begin to list all the friends, old and new, that I had a chance to meet." John Schrag, Singing OUT (Toronto)

Add to this a seven page email from composer John Michael Albert, who's piece "Our Family, Our Chorus and Our Rhyme" was part of EVM's Multimedia Extravaganza on Friday night (May 15) in which he describes his pleasant surprise at the beauty and dignity of Edmonton and the astounding experience he had on his first visit to Edmonton. JMA is from Denver and was one of four visitors from south of the border.

ever played monopoly?

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One Year Old

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Pride Rally

by Fred Dicker

The sun broke through the clouds on Saturday afternoon, May 16, 1998 while a crowd gathered in Churchill Square for Edmonton's 1998 Pride Rally. It was a colorful crowd with many examples of rainbow clothing, a variety of banners, pink



triangle signs and pride flags.

There was an feeling of celebration in the air. The afternoon started with a few words of introduction from the masters of ceremony, Callum Hiller from Outreach of the U of A and Megan Perry from CJSR radio. Callum and Megan are excellent representatives of a younger generation of our community who will lead us into the future. The first person they introduced was Michael Phair who brought greetings from the City

and words of inspiration of his own. Enthusiastic words of support came from provincial politicians; Pam Barrett, leader of the NDP party and Debbie Carlson, Liberal MLA from Edmonton - Ellerslie. Pascal brought words of inspiration from the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Superintendent Keith Duggan from the Edmonton Police Service and co-chair



of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Committee brought words of support and emphasized how important it is to report to the Police those crimes of violence and harassment that we all know are occasionally happening in our community. Murray Billett of GALA ended the program. Shirley Mclellan, Minister of Community Development sent her regrets that she could not attend and Charlach MacIntosh of the Alberta Human Rights Commission sent a congratulatory letter which unfortunately arrived late.



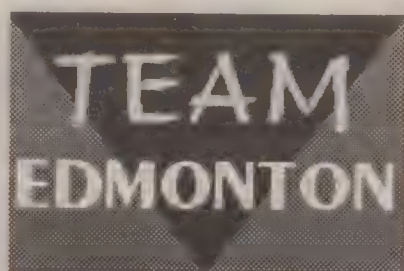
The theme for the afternoon was about Pride in who we are and recent changes in our community that we have to celebrate. The Vriend Supreme Court decision, which now means the words "sexual orientation", is in Alberta's legislation; inclusion of the words "sexual orientation" two years ago in the Canadian Human Rights Act; and most recently the court decision in Ontario about the definition of "spouse". However, mostly we just celebrated ourselves and the GALA Choruses Festival '98 which was happening around us on the May long weekend. Over 500 gay and lesbian people from across Canada visiting our city to sing in the Winspear Centre is something to celebrate and be proud.

The most important message of the day was a reminder by Murray Billett that now we legally have equality in Alberta but now we, each of us in our own way and on our own time, need to make sure we claim our rights. Remember, "Discrimination hinders coming out, but coming out hinders discrimination."

Pride Dance

On Saturday, May 23, in the Old Strathcona Arts Barn we held our annual Pride Awards and Dance. This dance is a joint effort of the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre and Womonspace.

Around 8:00 p.m., people started to arrive and by the time the Pride Awards presentation started there was a good crowd. There was a very warm feeling in the room as the awards were presented as we celebrated the contributions of the many winners. After the awards were presented, the music started and soon a crowd of over 600 had arrived for the dance and a good time was had by all. The profits will be shared between the Womonspace and the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre which will help both groups continue to serve our community. Some of the funds will also be used to help pay for other Pride expenses.



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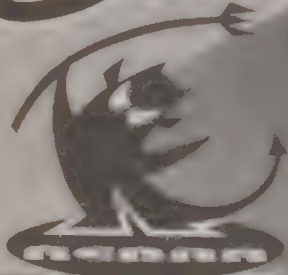
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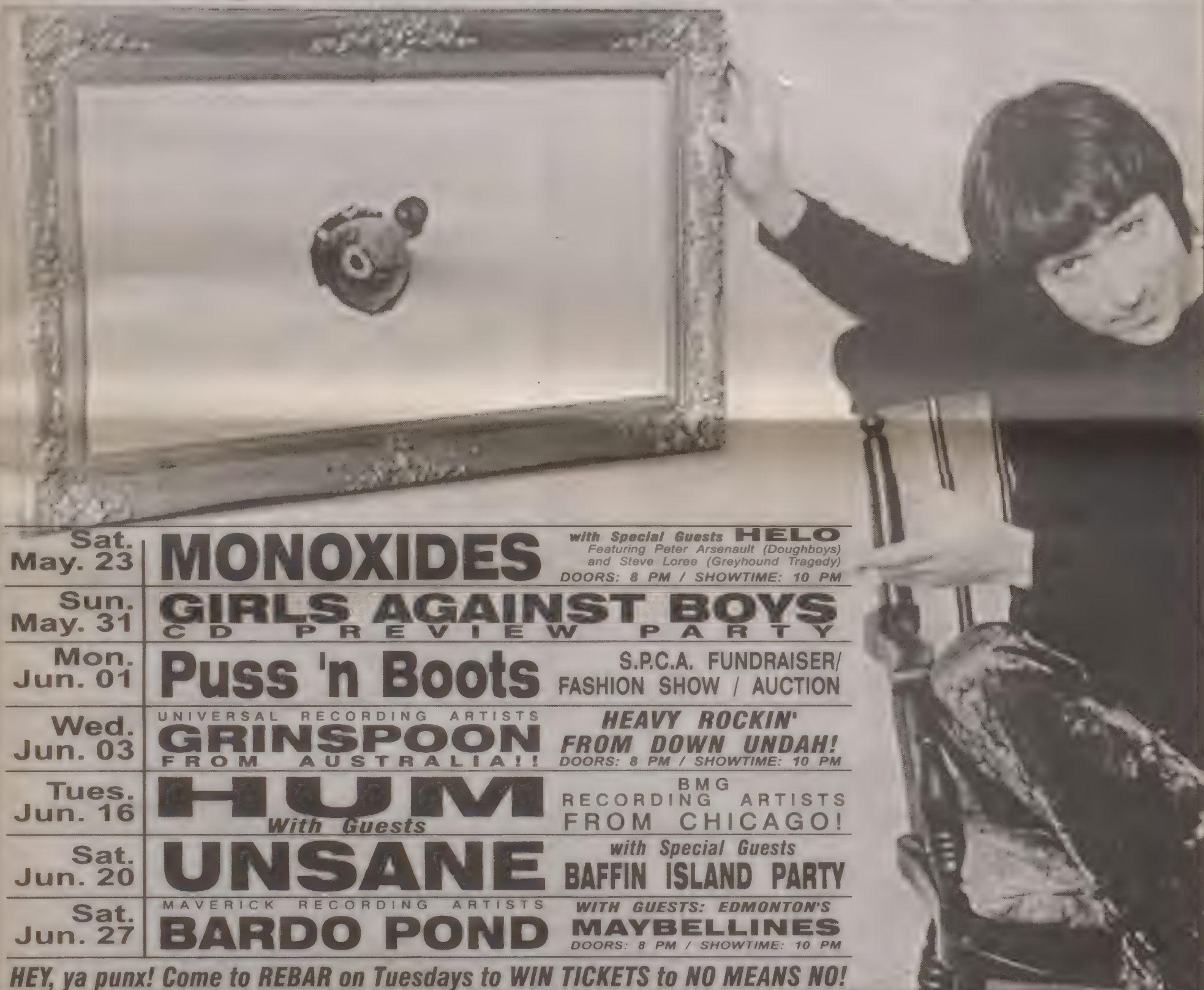
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Vol. 1, No. 21 June, 1998

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REQUESTS	PUNK / SKA	ALTERNATIVE	LEVEL 1: TECHNO / HOUSE	LEVEL 1: TECHNO / HOUSE	LEVEL 1: TECHNO / HOUSE	ALTERNATIVE
\$1.50 HIBALLS 'TIL MIDNIGHT	BEAT THE CLOCK HIBALLS	\$5.00 COVER .25¢ DRAFT	DJ: MIKEE LEVEL 2: CLASSICS	DJ: DAVEY LEVEL 2:	DJ: DAVEY LEVEL 2:	
			HAPPY HOUR 8:00 - 10:30	HAPPY HOUR 8:00 - 10:30	HAPPY HOUR 8:00 - 10:30	HAPPY HOUR 8:00 - 10:30

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GAYPOZ GATHERING

Continued from page 13

Support now has a membership averaging 346 subscribers.

THE REALITY OF GAYPOZ

On August 18, 1995 GayPoz became a reality. Mr. Davon continues to host both HIV-Support and GayPoz and is the List Owner of each list (as well as a number of other support and activism related mailing lists)

Beginning with just a handful of members, subscription to GayPoz has gradually increased during its 32 months of existence and the membership roster now numbers 326 members from North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. A number of members have been subscribers from the very first weeks that GayPoz went on-line.

GayPoz is an unmoderated list but does utilize List Maintainers to screen potential new subscribers against the membership criteria, to intervene on occasions when it is felt that further discussion of a topic would be disruptive to the ongoing daily operation and purpose of the list, and to ensure that all messages posted are done so in a manner that is consistent with the GayPoz Guidelines. To date, 5 individuals have served in this capacity.

HIV CAUSES AIDS

Any topic is open for discussion with the exception of one. That one exception is that all members MUST refrain from posting any message that is in direct conflict with the belief that HIV causes AIDS. This is so as, when GayPoz was founded, it was the judgment and the assumption of its co-founder, the list's first Maintainer, that there were sufficient other resources for such discussions and that the discussion of this topic would prove to be disruptive to the list. Since that time, the membership has been polled several times and in each instance, it has been the desire of the membership to keep this guideline intact.

GayPoz is a "high traffic" mailing list with anywhere from 15,000 to 20,000 messages being posted in any one year period. We have been averaging about 50-55 messages each day so far this spring.

For Further Information on GayPoz or other related HIV/AIDS Support groups on the internet, point your browser to: The Web-Depot Incorporated <http://WWW.Web-Depot.COM/>



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The Liaison Committee

*The Edmonton Police Service
in cooperation with the
Edmonton Gay and Lesbian Community*



- promoting effective two-way communication
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- identifying and resolving crime and safety concerns
- increasing police awareness of lifestyle issues

To contact the committee, call: 421-2277
(all calls strictly confidential)

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News From GLCCE



by Fred Dicker

Peer Counselling:

The Community Centre offers a program of free peer counselling. Our counsellors have been trained by our own training course. They are peer counsellors which means they are members of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. Our counselling service is free and can be accessed either by dropping into the Centre or by telephone without appointments. Everyone is welcome to use this service: gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their parents, friends, siblings, and neighbors. Anyone who wants to talk about issues or gain information about our community is welcome.

Library:

We have an extensive library of books about our community. Anyone can drop in to the Centre and browse our library or borrow books from it. Our library depends totally on donations so please consider donating some books.

Youth Group:

"Youth Understanding Youth" is

proud to announce their new name. They meet every Saturday from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Centre. This group is being well attended and is an excellent opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth to meet and socialize aged 25 and under. This group is also growing and changing and is seeking direction from youth, not adults, so it can better meet the needs of the youth of Edmonton. For more information call the Centre or email yuyedm@hotmail.com

Support Groups:

The Centre in co-operation with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew offer a number of free educational and support workshops that have the format of a facilitated discussion groups for both men and women. Also, Sundays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Centre, there is an ongoing facilitated discussion evening for men to drop-in whenever you can. These evenings are being well attended. Contact the Centre or GMOC at 944-1394 ext. 4662 for more information.

There is also a Gay Men's Coffee Evening every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Breadstick Cafe (10159-82 avenue) for anyone to drop in when they can. For more information, call Graham at 463-2098.

24 hour Information line:

For a number of years in our community, there was a telephone information and messaging service called Gaylines. In October 1997, this service which was provided by the Imperial Sovereign Court, was discontinued. The Centre is now offering this service with the phone number of 482-2855. This is a multiple menu telephone information service. When you call, you will need to enter codes provided by the menu to access various information as you wish. The information will be updated as required. This will be information about community groups and businesses. The community calendar portion will list upcoming events in our community and will be updated frequently. This service will provide a lot of the information provided on our webpage. The system was started May 1, and as with any new system, there have been some bugs.

Internet WebPages:

Our web page is continuing to grow with more information and links. A large number of people are accessing this site. We are now updating the web page at least once a week. A major part of the page is the Community calendar and it has to be current

to be of any use. To help the Centre with our page, we need everyone who is planning any events to contact us so we can put it on the page for everyone to see. Around the first and the middle of the month we send the community calendar out to anyone on our email distribution list. If any one has any ideas or information, or wants to be on the distribution list, then do contact the Centre

How to contact the Centre:

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton is open for drop-in and phone service from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday except holidays. Location address is Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. Telephone number is 488-3234 and messages are returned whenever possible. 24 hour Information line is 482-2855. Mailing Address is Box 1852, Main Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2

Email address is

- glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Web Page address is

- www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce

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Liz Massiah, msw, rsw
Registered clinical social worker

The question often is "Does abuse impact intimacy?"

The short answer is "of course". Without abuse, our souls believe that we are safe, loved, worthy of love, and that we will be treated with care and respect.

But if we encounter abuse in any of its forms (being beaten, being called names, being ignored, being sexually violated) as a witness or as someone being abused... if we feel any of the emotions associated with the experience of abuse (fear, pain, confusion, violation, lack of safety)... then our soul's view of the world changes. We can become suspicious, we can begin to not trust other people or ourselves - in fact any number of self-damaging or self-destructive behaviors may result. In other words, our soul's version of the story of the way people are in the world becomes very different.

One variation of the story might go like this: "Why pay attention to my own feelings and intuitions? Why even notice them? Why should I bother being self-respectful? Nobody responds to my needs anyway."

Might this be where behaviors like unprotected

sex, being involved in abusive relationships of our own (either perpetrating or being abused), multiple partners that don't really become relationships, addictions and depression come into the story?

Another variation: "I'm not safe when I have feelings, so I will constantly do for others, be selfless and always giving, so that I never have time to notice my feelings at all." It seems that living this particular variation gets lots of reinforcement and support in our society, and

to do with me now".

It seems, then, that the voice of abuse speaks loudly and firmly, yes, but out of a place of confusion, uncertainty, or hopelessness or all three. Or more. Don't trust, this voice says, and don't believe anyone who says there's another way, in word or deed. Perhaps appear to be open and friendly, maybe even interested. But don't take the chance of really connecting: it's safer that way.

Intimacy, on the other hand, says take the chance. Intimacy is full of

surprises, for oneself and for others, which makes it tough when the voice of abuse speaks so strongly about certainty, predictability and safety...even if safety really means emptiness, loneliness and self-doubt. Intimacy challenges those feelings to stop hiding behind the mask of self-protection, to appear and be known. Intimacy requires the willingness to be uncertain: of the moment, of the moment's outcome, of the way sameness and difference in people can be noticed, accepted and even welcomed. Intimacy requires a person to experience both oneself and someone else at the same time....

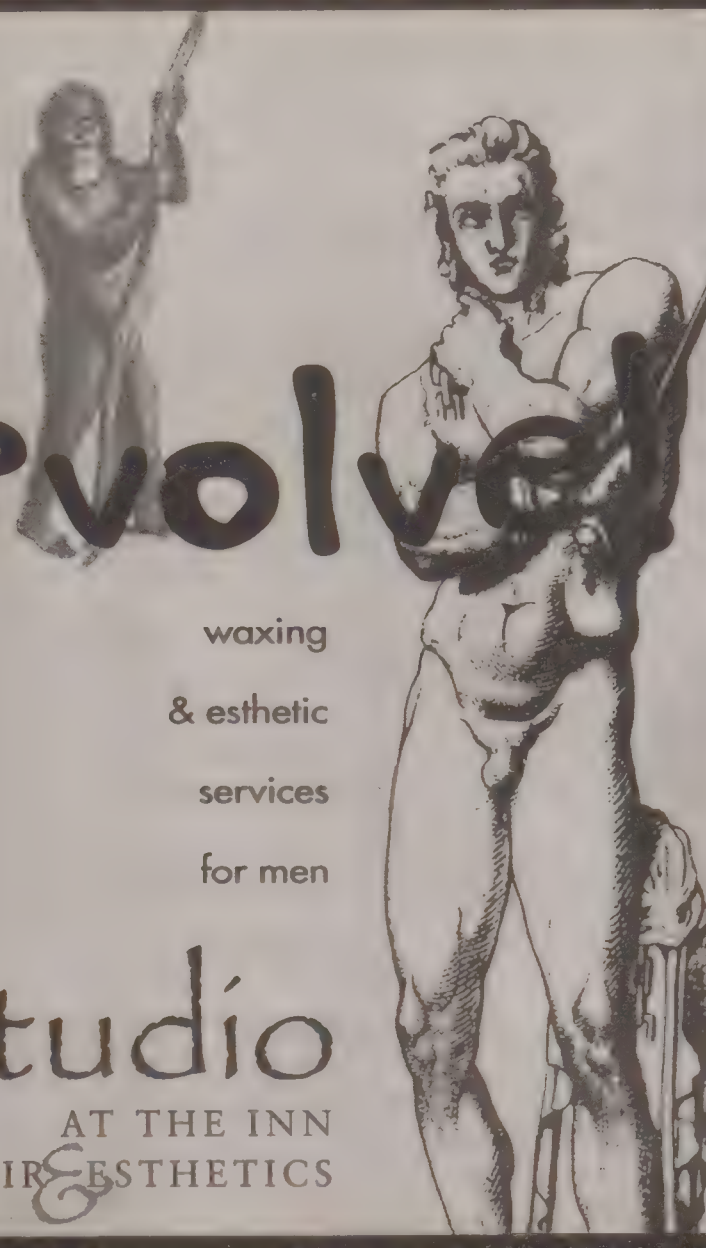
... but when a life story contains a theme of abuse, even the opportunity for that kind of intimacy is way to frightening. Self-protection returns and the story continues along the way it's always gone: the feeling of being safe - emotionally empty, but safe - returns.



often lots of rejection when the 'always available, always helpful', person starts to say, "no".

One more: the whole story becomes based on a sort of mental and emotional shrug. "What difference would it make- to feel, to act, to speak about me to myself or others - it's no big deal, it's in the past and has nothing

The abuse theme doesn't have to be in charge of your story forever. Learning to speak about abuse of any kind, to notice its presence and influence - first to yourself and then, maybe, to others - helps enormously to re-write the story, so that abuse becomes a minor sub-plot and the joys and rewards of intimacy can take center stage.



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First major trial of an AIDS vaccine

Bay Area firm bets protein strategy will work this time:

By Ariana E. Cha
Mercury News Staff Writer

South San Francisco — Scientists at a tiny biotechnology start-up have engineered the first AIDS vaccine that looks promising enough to merit a large-scale human trial. The VaxGen Inc. study, which will begin sometime this year, will involve 7,500 healthy volunteers, cost \$20 million and take three years to complete. If it is successful, the vaccine would be available to the public in the early part of the next century. The vaccine — which AIDS activists say is a significant advance in the fight against the disease — reintroduces a strategy that several

years ago was widely thought to have failed. Its key ingredient is gp120, a protein that helps hold the AIDS virus together.

The mixed results of studies of an earlier version of the protein vaccine were initially not considered encouraging. Now, VaxGen researchers have come back with a similar vaccine that appears to be much more robust. **Dr. Don Francis, VaxGen president and a veteran virologist who helped eradicate smallpox and contain the Ebola virus,** said preliminary studies are hopeful: All but a handful of the 1,000 people who were injected with an early form of the vaccine have shown a strong immune-system response. **"There's nothing magic about this vaccine, but it's our best hope so far and it's time to take the next step," he said. "I am optimistic."**

Like Francis, many AIDS researchers and activists say the development is a milestone — but not a miracle. Because of the tremendous diversity of the virus, researchers increasingly agree that a single vaccine won't work on everyone. So even the success of the new vaccine will not mean the end of the epidemic that has haunted the world for almost 17 years, researchers say. Even if the VaxGen study is not successful, however, researchers say the time and expense won't be wasted, because the world will gain much-needed knowledge about how the virus

operates. Of the more than 40 other vaccine candidates developed by industry and academia, most performed disappointingly in small human tests. Only one other has looked promising enough to make it to even the second phase of clinical trials, which involve several hundred people and are designed to test the safety of a treatment.

The vaccine produced by VaxGen, a spin-off of biotechnology pioneer Genentech Inc., is the first to win Food and Drug Administration support to move to "phase III" testing designed to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. AIDS activists said they hope that the progress of the VaxGen vaccine is a sign of a new era for AIDS research and will spur increased investment in and attention to vaccine development, which is fraught with scientific, economic and ethical problems. "Yes, it's exciting. Yes, it's a big step," said Sam Avrett, associate scientific director for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. "But we're not going to get answers overnight. We're going to need to do a lot more large tests if we're going to succeed." The human immunodeficiency virus, like influenza, is somewhat of a moving target, since it mutates often throughout the course of an infection. HIV also comes in 10 viral families — called clades — that affect people in different parts of the world.

With these recent discoveries, the FDA has backed down from its stand on pursuing only those vaccines that are highly effective. The agency now says it will consider putting a vaccine with a success rate as low as 30 percent on the market. Scientists are chasing some half-dozen vaccine strategies. Using a subunit of the virus to mimic an infection has been popular because it involves little risk — since a person can only get infected from a whole virus — and has been shown to stimulate a strong immune response. But some researchers have contended that the protein approach is outdated. Luc Montagnier of France's Pasteur Institute, who helped discover that HIV causes AIDS, has called the strategy "a dead end." Montagnier points out that protein vaccines have only stimulated a strong antibody response, but have not done the same for "killer T-cells," the other army that the body uses to fight off infection. But Peggy Johnston, scientific director of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, says the controversy over protein vaccines is unfounded, because no one knows whether killer T-cells are necessary to ward off HIV. And 10 of the 13 prominent scientists who recently reviewed the gp120 data for the United Nations said the results looked encouraging enough for a large study. Just a year and a half ago, scientists discovered that there are actually two different types of HIV in terms of how they bind to white blood cells known as "helper T-cells." It is now known that the second type is responsible for more infections than the first, Francis said. VaxGen's new vaccine, which it has dubbed AIDSVAX to avoid confusion with the first gp120 vaccine, is made from both types. The discovery of HIV subtypes, Francis said, may explain the shortcomings of the original vaccine,

which had been scheduled for a phase III study in 1994. The study of vaccines manufactured by Genentech and Emeryville's Chiron Biocine was canceled after a front-page story in the Chicago Tribune reported some volunteers had become infected with HIV during phases I and II. The story became so twisted in other publications that many concluded that vaccine was made up of live HIV and made people ill, even though the study volunteers actually contracted the virus through unprotected sex and intravenous drug use. Amid waning public support and wary volunteers, the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases shelved the large-scale study.

Critics of the original vaccine took the fact that some of the volunteers had contracted the virus despite the vaccine as a signal that it does not work. But Francis argues that "breakthrough infections" are expected with any vaccine candidate. Part of the reason for the infections may be because the first vaccine didn't account for the second type of virus. Of the five volunteers in the original study who completed a full-course of the vaccine but subsequently became infected with HIV, all were stricken by the second type. "You plug up the holes in the sieve a few at a time. The holes for the second type of HIV were open then. Now we hope they're closed," said Francis, a longtime AIDS warrior. "You keep doing this until nothing can get through." The new study is being funded by private investors. The company has already raised at least \$18 million.

Here's how the phase III study of AIDSVAX will work, according to Francis: Some 5,000 of the volunteers would be in the United States. An additional 2,500 would be in Thailand. Half of the volunteers would get the vaccine; the other half would get placebos. The volunteers — most of whom are considered at high risk of contracting HIV — would be tracked for three years and the rate of infection between the two groups, as well as antibody and T-cell production, would be compared. VaxGen has not yet determined whether there will be a testing site in the Bay Area. **VaxGen has already created enough gp120 for "hundreds of thousands of doses."** AIDS activists say many types of vaccines must be tested simultaneously on humans within the next few years if they are to meet President Clinton's goal of developing a vaccine by 2007. With costly treatments out of reach for most of those infected with AIDS, a protective vaccine remains the best hope for conquering the disease, which has killed more than 6.4 million people worldwide in the past decade, more than a quarter of those in the past year alone.

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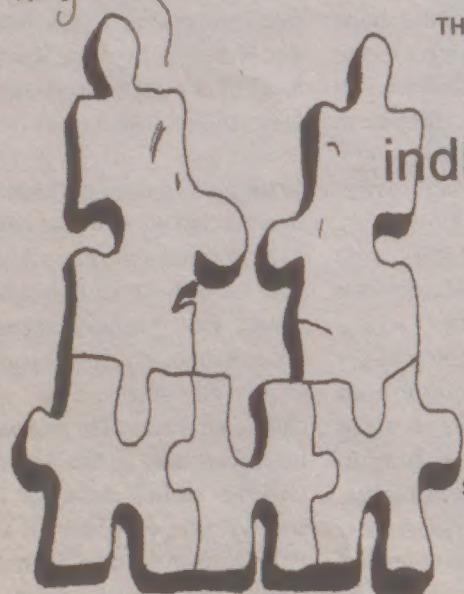
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Waxing and esthetics. Not just the domain of pampered women tucked away in beauty salons any more. Today's man has taken a cue from women and realized the benefits of a regular esthetics regime. "Men are realizing that making an effort toward looking their best pays off in many ways," says Scott Krewenchuk of Studio at the Inn. "Like it or not, the business world, and the world in general, is very image conscious. Looking after yourself is another weapon in the battle to get ahead."

While the world of esthetics is foreign to many men, more and more men are venturing into the unfamiliar territory. "We recommend starting slowly, building your comfort level," says Scott. "Clients usually get involved in esthetics by trying something like a mini-facial. It's a great experience; your skin feels fresh and tight." From a mini-facial, many men graduate to full facials, which like the mini-facial, involve a deep cleansing of skin and pores. "The full facial is awesome," continues Scott. "You get the benefits of the cleansing, but you also receive a facial massage. You leave feeling so relaxed. There's something about having someone devoting all that attention to you that really lets you forget about all the stress around you."

In addition to being a relaxing experience, facials help maintain your skin's elasticity, which is a key to staying one step ahead of Father Time. "Regular facials help you to look younger longer," says Inez Frois, Studio at the Inn's esthetic expert. Inez goes on to say that because facials help speed the natural exfoliation process, they can be very effective in reducing the appearance of fine wrinkles and acne and other minor skin scarring.

Where esthetics are concerned, as in all other aspects of life, it's the little details that really count. "Many of our male clients who have tried facials go on to invest the time to also have their nails and hands properly taken care of," says Inez. "The face and the hands are the first things that people notice about others. A well manicured hand looks healthy, makes a good first impression, and shows that you care about the details." Inez describes about the reaction of some clients after their first manicure. "They expected to leave the salon with painted finger nails," she laughs. "They soon discovered that a good manicure leaves the hands looking and feeling tailored and trim. It's like getting a good haircut."

You only get one chance to make a first impression. While an esthetics regime may seem frivolous, odds are it will improve your chances of making that first impression a good one.

THE FRONT PAGE

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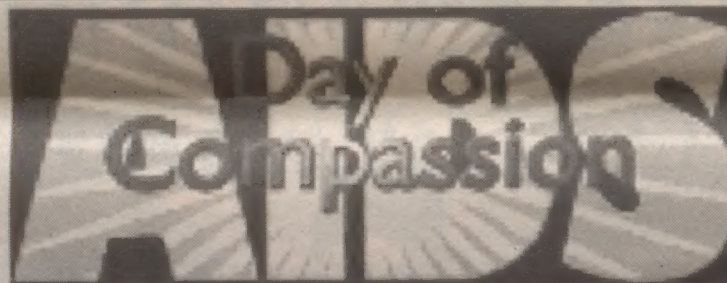
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Ways You Can Participate During Fifth Annual Day of Compassion

There are many ways you can organize to bring Day of Compassion to your community:

Before June 19 you can:

- Create a public service announcement to be aired on local radio, cable or network TV to publicize that Day of Compassion is coming (you can call our office to ask for suggested text for your PSA - we even have professionally produced videos and tapes you can use).
- Encourage a local business to have a Day of Compassion sale or other AIDS fundraiser for you organization.
- Create banners to advertise Day of Compassion on your building.
- Ask your local TV or radio station to interview a local person with AIDS about Day of Compassion and what it means to them.
- Take out an ad in your local paper advertising Day of Compassion.
- Mail a press release promoting Day of Compassion and whatever event you plan to organize.

During the event, you can:

- Be sure to watch as much of the programming throughout Day of Compassion as possible and encourage friends to do the same.
- Designate someone from your organization to be available to local news media to interview.
- Hold a press conference to address local HIV/AIDS issues.

After the event, you can:

- Organize a letter writing campaign of support to the producers and advertisers of the shows you saw that produced an AIDS-themed program.
- Organize an AIDS walk, vigil or other community event or local fundraiser. Decorate a local monument with red AIDS awareness ribbons.
- If there is a local gay pride event, you can coordinate a special tribute to loved ones that we have lost to AIDS.

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Free-to-Be Volleyball Association

I've seen the number of womyn participating in the association increase over the years. We welcome womyn and I'd like to encourage more womyn folk to join. We could form a womyn's team for tournaments or a womyn's league if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested or have any comments, please give Andrew a call at 435-9379. Summer is a time of change for the association. Some leagues end and new ones begin. This is a good time to offer a huge thanks to the people that have made the Association so successful. We strive provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. Rick, Darcy and Mark have been very effective in helping to achieve this goal. As the association grows it demands more and more support and I thank you. Your time is valuable and appreciated. I would also like to thank Ron who, though not currently active in the association, was instrumental in forming the association and organizing it for the previous two years. Kudos to you all.

Competitive League

The 1997/1998 season ends on June 17 but will start up again in late September. Thank you very much for the dedication from the competitive league players. There has been a definite development of skills throughout the year. I hope that all participants met some new people and had some fun. We'll be at St. Patricks School, 12050 95A Street, Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. For further information, contact Andrew at 435-9379.

Recreation League

The 1997/1998 season ended on May 26 but the league will start up again in mid September. Throughout the entire season, attendance has been outstanding. I hope that all players return next year and bring a friend. Perhaps we can get another court or gym going next year. We've requested Grandin School, 9844 110 Street, for next year but we're hoping for a larger space. For further information, contact Rick at 497-7585.

Beach League

Beach Volleyball has begun. Get your lily white skin along with the rest of your body out to the kick off of this season's beach volleyball. We'll be at Garneau Beach Volleyball courts, 10943 84 Ave, Sundays from 2-4 until end of summer. The focus will be on social volleyball. Pass the word around and bring a few friends. For further information, contact Rick at 497-7585.

Tournaments

Upcoming tournaments are as follows : Vancouver, July 25-26; Saskatoon, September 4-7; Portland, October 10-12. For further information, contact Andrew at 435-9379.

City League

This league is designed for highly competitive and physically fit volleyball players. If you are interested in playing in the 1998/99 season City League, contact Andrew at 435-9379. An assessment will be made in August to see if there is sufficient interest in this league for next year.

Andrew Schuster

Association Co-ordinator

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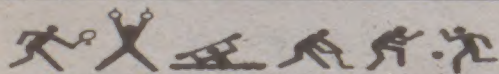
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